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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Environment Department Assists in Cleanup of Hazardous Material At Former Luna Lodge Site in Albuquerque**

*Department awarded \$100,000 to New Life Homes to pay for removal of asbestos*

(Albuquerque, NM) – The Remediation Oversight Section of the New Mexico Environment Department's Ground Water Quality Bureau is pleased to announce the completion of asbestos and lead paint remediation by New Life Homes at the Former Luna Lodge site located at 9119 Central Avenue NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"This restoration project has already proven to be a successful cooperative effort between the New Mexico Environment Department, the City of Albuquerque, New Life Homes, and numerous financial agencies," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary David Martin. "We are proud to have been able to help contribute to the safe removal of asbestos and other materials from the Luna Lodge site."

The New Mexico Environment Department received an award of an American Resource Recovery Act (ARRA) Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF) grant from the EPA and awarded \$100,000 to the New Life Homes to pay for approved costs to remediate asbestos and lead paint at the Luna Lodge site.

Members of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will join other stakeholders on Friday, March 23, 2012 from 11:15-12:45 at the site for a groundbreaking ceremony that will lead to the redevelopment of the historic lodge. The redeveloped site will feature a 28-unit apartment complex that will provide affordable housing for previously homeless residents and residents with special needs. NMED, at the request of New Life Homes, also provided Targeted Brownfields Assistance to the project by preparing documents that were essential to completing the eligibility prerequisites for the ARRA grant.

Luna Lodge was built in 1950 during the golden age of Route 66 tourism. The eight room lodge was built in the typical motor court style of the time and is largely unaltered. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Luna Lodge has been vacant for several years and is in an area that has been targeted by the City of Albuquerque for significant revival.

New Life Homes, a nonprofit agency that provides permanent housing for clients with special needs and other disabilities, will rehabilitate Luna Lodge into apartments units. The site will include a community room and a training kitchen that will serve as a small business incubator and a resource for residents looking to learn food industry skills.

The restoration project will preserve the historical significance and Pueblo Revival style architecture of Luna Lodge. Financing is provided by MFA, RBC Capital Markets, the City of Albuquerque, Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas and NMED.

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